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Delaware Digest

Labor Market Monthly

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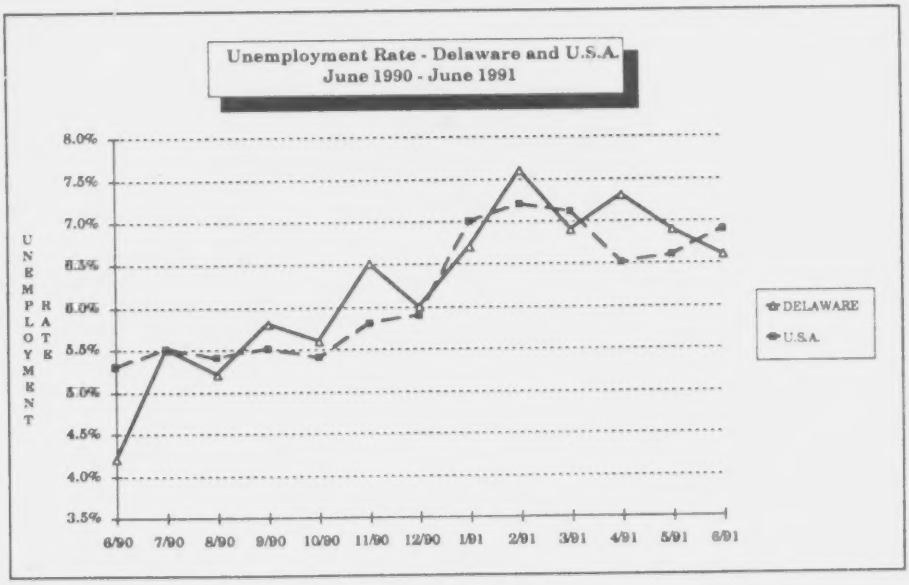
Delaware Department of Labor
Office of Occupational & Labor Market Information

Seasonal Hiring Lowers Delaware's Unemployment Rate

Delaware's unemployment rate dropped to 6.5% in June, 1991 from 6.9% in May, 1991 due mostly to seasonal hiring. The rate in June, 1990 was lower at 4.2%. Last month, 24,100 Delawareans were unemployed compared to 15,500 during June of 1990. Between June, 1990 and June, 1991, Delaware's labor force rose from 367,700 to 368,400.

Total nonagricultural employment rose by 3,300 over the month to 349,600 jobs. Over-the-month job gains were in Wholesale and Retail Trade, Services, Construction, and Transportation and Public Utilities. The only significant over-the-month job losses were in Government. Additional information on job gains can be found on page 4.



For information about the unemployment rate, occupational projections, women in the workforce, the Delaware Occupational Information System (OIS), or any other Labor Market Information, contact the Office of Occupational and Labor Market Information at (302) 368-6960.

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Labor Force Trends

Delaware's unemployment rate dropped from 6.9% in May 1991 to 6.5% in June 1991 due mostly to expected seasonal hiring in such industries as amusement and recreational services, and restaurants. The rate in June, 1990 was at a pre-recessionary level of 4.2%. The number of jobless Delawareans last month was 24,100 compared to 15,500 in June, 1990.

Nationally, the unemployment rate was 6.9% in June, 1991, the first time in three months that Delaware's rate was lower than the U.S. figure. For the remainder of 1991, Delaware's jobless rate should track closely to the national rate.

Delaware's Civilian Labor Force

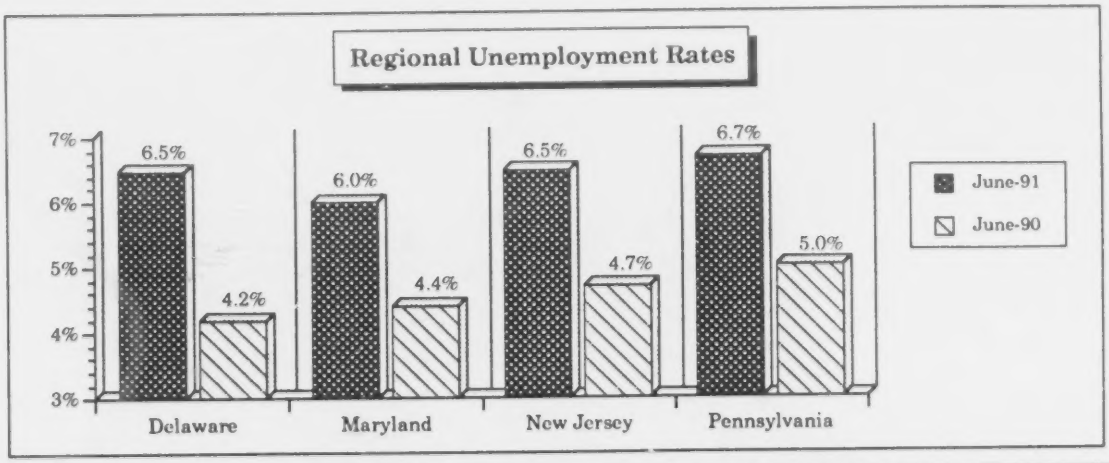
	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990
Civilian Labor Force	368,358	366,696	367,720
Employment	344,284	341,380	352,182
Unemployment	24,074	25,316	15,538
Unemployment Rate	6.5	6.9	4.2
National Unemployment Rate	6.9	6.6	5.3

From June, 1990 to June, 1991, the State's labor force rose slightly from 367,700 to 368,400. The labor force includes people, over the age of 16, who are working or actively seeking work. The estimate of employed Delaware residents is down over the year from 352,200 to 344,300.

The increase in the number of jobless Delawareans since last year is about 55%. The numbers of unemployed persons who are new and re-entrants to the workforce has remained at relatively high levels. Job seekers, especially those in the managerial and professional fields, face an exceedingly difficult job market.

The labor market is showing no signs of turning around. Despite the continued debate over the anticipated end to the recession, Delaware's job market continues to streamline. Employers are always looking for ways to cut costs, the easiest being labor costs. Recent announced changes at area banks as well as efforts at Dupont to cut $1 billion in fixed costs over the next two years will impact an already weak Delaware job market.

During the next couple of months expect a modest increase in seasonal employment. These new jobs, however, will be temporary and provide limited help for the economy. The overall outlook for the remainder of the summer is that of little or no improvement in unemployment conditions.



Local Area Unemployment Statistics

June, 1991 - Preliminary

Labor Area and Subareas	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
1. Statewide	368,358	344,284	24,074	6.5
2. Wilmington, PMSA	316,455	295,103	21,352	6.7
3. New Castle County	247,224	231,295	15,929	6.4
4. Balance of NCC (1)	212,744	199,992	12,752	6.0
5. Wilmington City	34,480	31,303	3,177	9.2
6. Newark City	14,188	12,916	1,272	9.0
7. Kent County	52,808	48,218	4,590	8.7
8. Sussex County	68,326	64,771	3,555	5.2
9. United States (Non-Seasonal)	127,054	118,280	8,774	6.9
10. United States (000's) (Seasonal)	125,629	116,884	8,745	7.0

May, 1991 - Final

Labor Area and Subareas	Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
1. Statewide	366,696	341,380	25,316	6.9
2. Wilmington, PMSA	316,652	295,197	21,455	6.8
3. New Castle County	248,342	231,876	16,466	6.6
4. Balance of NCC (1)	213,504	200,494	13,010	6.1
5. Wilmington City	34,838	31,382	3,456	9.9
6. Newark City	14,274	12,948	1,326	9.3
7. Kent County	52,645	47,935	4,710	8.9
8. Sussex County	65,710	61,570	4,140	6.3
9. United States (Non-Seasonal)	124,857	116,624	8,233	6.6
10. United States (000's) (Seasonal)	125,232	116,591	8,640	6.9

(1) Balance of NCC equals New Castle County minus Wilmington City

NOTE: Due to rounding, totals may not add and data may not match similar statistics published in various other state or National releases.

Industry Trends

Between May and June of this year, Delaware's nonagricultural employment rose by 3,300 to 349,600 jobs. The gain was due mostly to seasonal hiring.

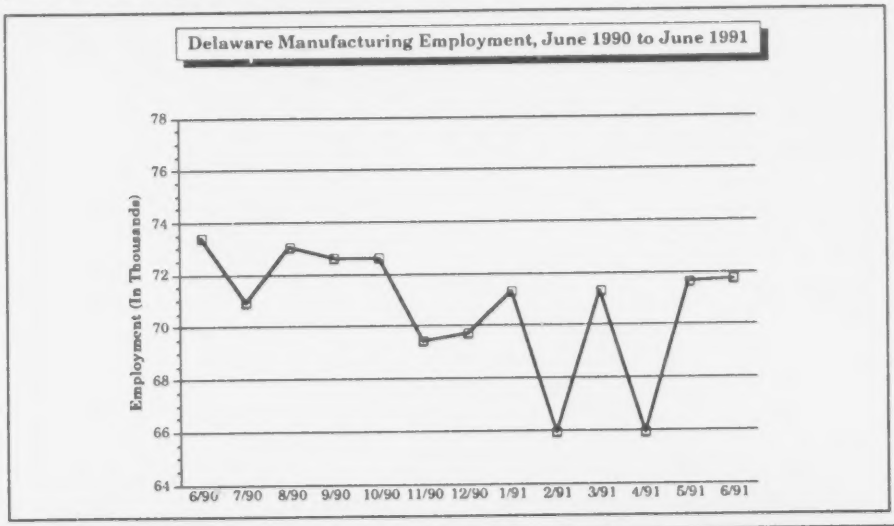
Job gains were in **wholesale trade** (seasonal increases in eating and drinking places; general merchandise stores; and food stores); **services** (seasonal increases in amusement and recreational services; small gains in health services); **construction** (seasonal job growth in special trades); and **transportation and public utilities** (trucking and warehousing). The only significant over-the-month job losses were in **government**, due to the early retirement option for State employees and seasonal declines in higher education.

Historically, there have always been significant seasonal job gains from May to June. Over the prior eight years, the May-to-June gain has averaged 5,600 jobs. The increase this year, therefore, is much below the average increase. Employers are still extremely cautious in Delaware--even in industries which had rapid spring/summer expansion.

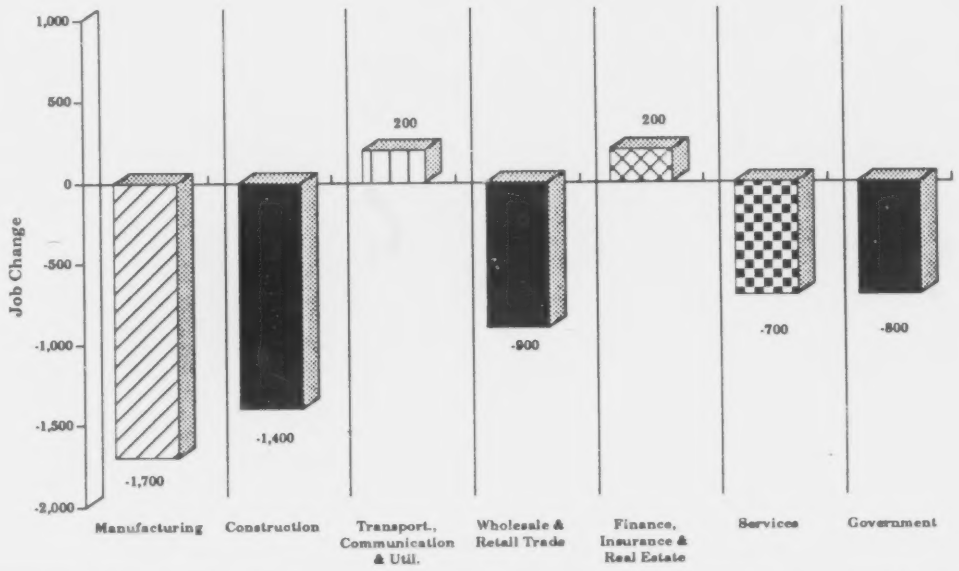
Since June, 1990, total nonagricultural employment has declined by 1.4% or 5,100 jobs. Job losses since June of last year have been in **contract construction** (general building; and special trades); **government** (federal; state non-education; and local non-education); **wholesale and retail trade** (building materials general merchandise stores; auto dealers; and eating and drinking places); **manufacturing** (chemicals; and petroleum, coal and plastics); and **services** (business services; and engineering and management services). Over the year, employment gains have been in **finance, insurance, and real estate** (banking); and **transportation and public utilities**.

Delaware shows a loss of 4,000 jobs during the first six months of this year, compared to the same period a year ago. For the second half of the year we have a dim outlook on any significant turnaround in the State's job market. Key industries to economic recovery, such as contract construction, chemicals, finance, and business services, are no where near a turnaround. Particularly troubling is the general weakness in the service producing sectors such as retail trade. The service sectors have been very hard hit in the mid-atlantic region and New England states.

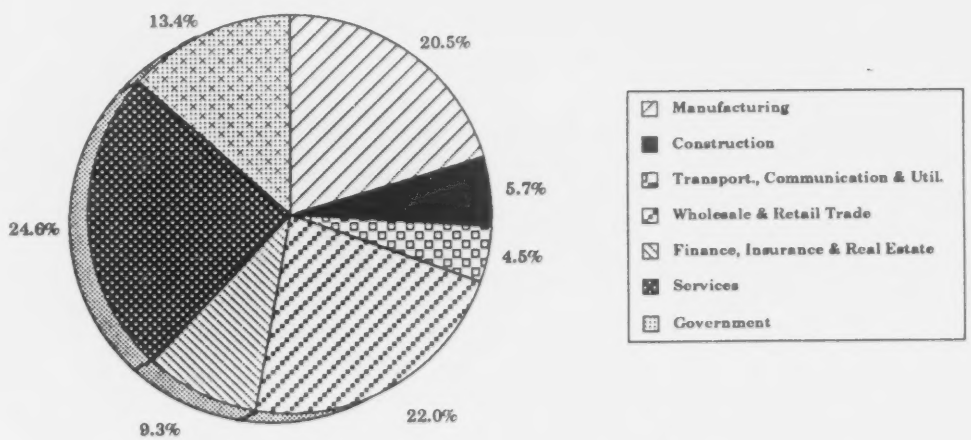
Over the next several months, the Delaware Department of Labor anticipates no permanent job growth. There may be slight temporary gains in industries that usually have summer gains, such as food processing. Expectation for gains in the job market have been dampened by recently announced layoffs and mergers in the financal sector as well as cost cutting measures by the State's largest private employer, the E. I. du Pont de Nemours Company.



Net Job Change By Sector, Delaware June 1990 To June 1991



Percent Of Total Employment By Sector, Delaware, June 1991



Delaware Nonagricultural Employment by Selected Industry

INDUSTRY GROUP	Jun 91	May 91	Jun 90	Net Change to Jun 1991 from: May 91	Jun 90
TOTAL NONAG. EMPLOYMENT	349.6	346.3	354.7	3.3	-5.1
GOODS PRODUCING	91.6	91.0	94.7	0.6	-3.1
MINING	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.0
CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION	19.8	19.3	21.2	0.5	-1.4
General Building Contractors	4.8	4.7	5.3	0.1	-0.5
Heavy Construction Contractors	4.1	4.0	3.8	0.1	0.3
Special Trade Contractors	10.9	10.6	12.1	0.3	-1.2
MANUFACTURING	71.7	71.6	73.4	0.1	-1.7
Durable Goods	18.6	18.6	18.8	0.0	-0.2
Primary & Fabricated Metals	3.1	3.1	3.2	0.0	-0.1
Machinery & Electrical Equipment	1.9	1.8	1.9	0.1	0.0
Transportation Equipment	8.0	8.1	7.8	-0.1	0.2
Instruments & Related Products	3.0	3.0	3.1	0.0	-0.1
Other Durable Goods	2.6	2.6	2.8	0.0	-0.2
Nondurable Goods	53.1	53.0	54.6	0.1	-1.5
Food & Kindred Products	9.3	9.1	9.1	0.2	0.2
Textile, Apparel, Leather	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.0	0.0
Paper, Printing, Publishing	5.2	5.1	5.3	0.1	-0.1
Chemicals	33.2	33.4	34.5	-0.2	-1.3
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	3.8	3.8	4.1	0.0	-0.3
SERVICE PRODUCING	258.0	255.3	260.0	2.7	-2.0
TRANSPORTATION & PUBLIC UTILITIES	15.7	15.3	15.5	0.4	0.2
Transportation	10.4	10.0	10.3	0.4	0.1
Railroad Transportation	1.4	1.4	1.4	0.0	0.0
Local & Interurban Passenger Trans.	1.7	1.7	1.8	0.0	-0.1
Trucking & Warehousing	5.0	4.8	4.9	0.2	0.1
Other Transportation	2.3	2.1	2.2	0.2	0.1
Communications & Utilities	5.3	5.3	5.2	0.0	0.1
Communications	2.2	2.2	2.2	0.0	0.0
Electrical, Gas & Sanitary Services	3.1	3.1	3.0	0.0	0.1
WHOLESALE & RETAIL TRADE	76.9	74.9	77.8	2.0	-0.9
Wholesale Trade	13.3	13.4	13.4	-0.1	-0.1
Wholesale-Durable	7.6	7.6	7.7	0.0	-0.1
Wholesale-Nondurable	5.7	5.8	5.7	-0.1	0.0
Retail Trade	63.6	61.5	64.4	2.1	-0.8
Building Material & Garden Supplies	2.7	2.7	3.0	0.0	-0.3
General Merchandise Stores	8.5	8.2	8.7	0.3	-0.2
Food Stores	9.7	9.4	9.6	0.3	0.1
Auto Dealers & Service Stations	6.6	6.7	6.8	-0.1	-0.2
Apparel & Accessory Stores	3.6	3.5	3.5	0.1	0.1
Furniture & Home Furnishings	2.5	2.5	2.6	0.0	-0.1
Eating & Drinking Places	21.4	20.0	21.6	1.4	-0.2
Miscellaneous Retail	8.6	8.5	8.6	0.1	0.0

Cont'd

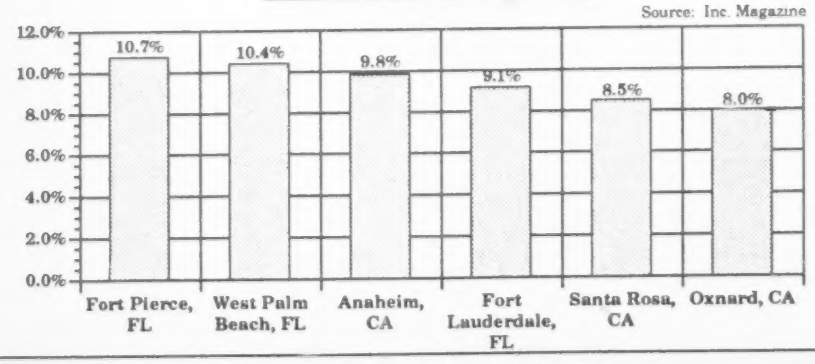
Delaware Nonagricultural Employment by Selected Industry

INDUSTRY GROUP	Jun 91	May 91	Jun 90	Net Change to Jun 1991 from: May 91	Jun 90
FINANCE, INSURANCE & REAL ESTATE	32.5	32.3	32.3	0.2	0.2
Finance	23.4	23.3	22.9	0.1	0.5
Depository Institutions	20.4	20.3	19.9	0.1	0.5
Other Finance	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0
Insurance	5.7	5.7	5.7	0.0	0.0
Real Estate	3.4	3.3	3.7	0.1	-0.3
SERVICES	86.1	84.9	86.8	1.2	-0.7
Hotels & Other Lodging Places	3.3	3.2	3.3	0.1	0.0
Personal Services	3.0	3.0	3.0	0.0	0.0
Business Services	20.5	20.5	21.3	0.0	-0.8
Automobile & Miscellaneous Repair	3.7	3.6	3.8	0.1	-0.1
Amusement & Recreation Services	4.5	3.8	4.0	0.7	0.5
Health Services	22.8	22.5	22.6	0.3	0.2
Hospitals	11.5	11.4	11.3	0.1	0.2
Other Health Services	11.3	11.1	11.3	0.2	0.0
Legal Services	2.8	2.8	3.0	0.0	-0.2
Educational Services	4.0	4.1	3.8	-0.1	0.2
Social Services	7.0	6.9	6.8	0.1	0.2
Engineering & Management Services	5.4	5.4	5.8	0.0	-0.4
Membership Organizations	5.6	5.5	5.7	0.1	-0.1
Other Services	3.5	3.6	3.7	-0.1	-0.2
GOVERNMENT	46.8	47.9	47.6	-1.1	-0.8
Federal Government	6.0	5.9	6.6	0.1	-0.6
State & Local Government	40.8	42.0	41.0	-1.2	-0.2
State Government	22.7	24.2	22.5	-1.5	0.2
State Education	8.5	9.7	8.0	-1.2	0.5
State Non-Education	14.2	14.5	14.5	-0.3	-0.3
Local Government	18.1	17.8	18.5	0.3	-0.4
Local Education	13.5	13.4	13.1	0.1	0.4
Local Non-Education	4.6	4.4	5.4	0.2	-0.8
Persons Involved In Work Stoppages	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Current Data Preliminary; Previous Month Revised

Most Job Growth 1988-1990

Source: Inc. Magazine



Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing Industries

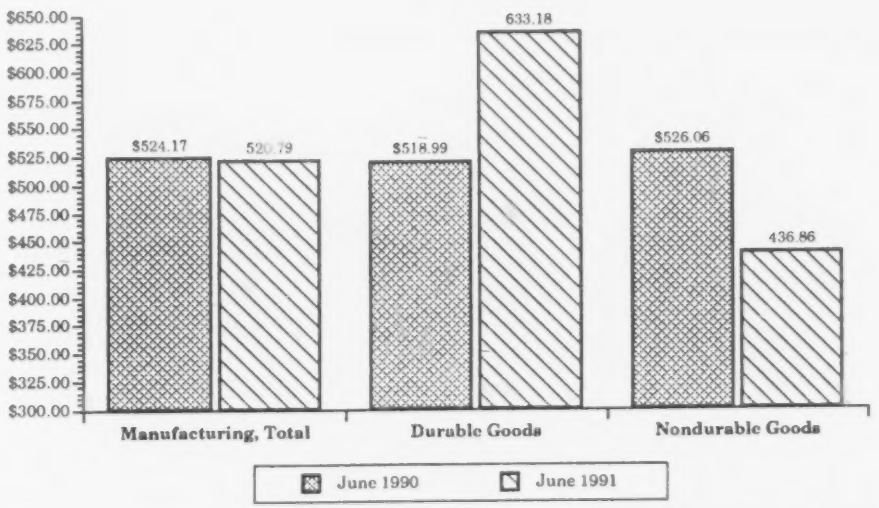
Delaware*

	Weekly Earnings			Weekly Hours			Hourly Earnings		
	Jun-91	May-91	Jun-90	Jun-91	May-91	Jun-90	Jun-91	May-91	Jun-90
MANUFACTURING	$ 520.79	$ 506.17	$ 524.17	41.3	40.3	41.8	$12.61	$ 12.56	$ 12.54
DURABLE GOODS	633.18	611.25	518.99	42.1	40.4	39.8	15.04	15.13	13.04
Primary & Fabricated Metals	491.71	436.21	403.51	41.6	37.8	39.1	11.82	11.54	10.32
Machinery & Electrical Equipment	572.10	528.77	517.85	44.8	40.8	39.5	12.77	12.96	13.11
Transportation Equipment	791.93	784.83	631.54	42.6	42.7	40.2	18.59	18.38	15.71
Instruments & Related	395.24	369.40	370.54	41.3	38.6	39.8	9.57	9.57	9.31
Other Durable Goods	380.25	344.40	356.45	39.9	35.8	39.3	9.53	9.62	9.07
NONDURABLE GOODS	436.86	428.93	526.06	40.6	40.2	42.7	10.76	10.67	12.32
Food & Kindred Products	322.40	330.08	341.94	40.3	40.6	41.7	8.00	8.13	8.20
Textile, Apparel, Leather	363.69	335.78	359.98	40.5	38.2	41.0	8.98	8.79	8.78
Paper, Printing, and Publishing	431.26	398.22	405.08	38.3	36.4	38.0	11.26	10.94	10.66
Chemicals	649.32	634.69	653.50	42.0	42.2	43.8	15.46	15.04	14.92
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	444.52	429.22	488.67	41.7	40.8	45.5	10.66	10.52	10.74

*Covers an estimated 32,900 Production Workers

Current Data Preliminary; previous month revised

Delaware Average Weekly Earnings for Manufacturing Production Workers



The Department of Labor Serving You Better. . .

Division of Vocational Rehabilitation

On July 26, regulations were released regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA). This wide-ranging act provides Civil Rights protection for 43 million U.S. citizens with disabilities.

ADA has five parts:

Title I—Employment: Prohibits discrimination in application procedures, promotion, hiring, or discharge of employees in all terms, conditions, and privileges of employment. This goes into effect July 26, 1992 for employers with 25 or more employees and July 26, 1994 for employers with 15 or more employees.

Title II—Public Service: Requires that all private and public transportation systems be accessible to all people including individuals with disabilities.

Title III—Public Accommodations: No individual shall be discriminated against on the basis of disability in the full and equal enjoyment of goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and any place offering public accommodations.

Title IV—Telecommunications: requires a telephone relay system for people with hearing or speech impairments.

Title V—Miscellaneous Provisions: Other State and Federal laws providing equal or greater protection for the rights of individuals with disabilities are valid and will remain.

On October 2, the Governor's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities will host a seminar at the University of Delaware's Clayton Hall to answer questions about ADA. For more information please call Diane Treacy at (302) 577-2850.

Division of Employment and Training

On September 30, the Division of Employment and Training will display and demonstrate the new Touch-Screen Automated Labor Exchange System (ALEX) at the University of Delaware's 23rd Annual Job Jamboree.

ALEX is a computer-based system that gives job seekers greater access to information on employment opportunities. Touch-Screen ALEX allows a job seeker to access computerized job information by simply touching a computer screen to execute computer commands. An accompanying video instructs the job seeker how to use the system.

Governor Michael N. Castle unveiled the new touch-screen version of ALEX earlier this year in Legislative Hall. "In this difficult economic time, providing job opportunities to the public is critical. ALEX delivers existing labor market information quickly and easily."

The Touch-Screen unit requires no computer knowledge and gives users a printout of general information on a chosen job that can be taken to a Department of Labor, Employment and Training local office for more information. The system gives the job seeker an opportunity to search through thousands of openings for jobs locally, regionally, and nationally that match his or her own skills, experience, and interests.

"This is one of the many initiatives that the Department of Labor is currently involved with to increase the quality of Delaware's labor force," said Labor Secretary Jan Ewing Robinson. "This advanced technology allows us to access jobs locally that are available through the interstate job bank."

In addition to the touch-screen version, ALEX is available through self-service keyboard terminals at the Department of Labor, Employment and Training local offices, the Department of Labor's Pencader office, the Veterans Administration Building in Elsmere, the Dover Air Force Base, and for disabled clients, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation's Wilmington office. For more information call (302) 368-6897.

The Implications of a Changing Population on Delaware's Workforce

Historically, the 1980s will be remembered as a decade of dramatic change and economic prosperity for Delaware. In 1990, the recession started and the State's record expansion ended. Delaware's good fortune, however, created a population surge during the 80s of over 70,000 people and left the State with many interesting implications. Our population is older, more women are working than ever before, and once again, as happened in the 1960s, the number of young children has been growing.

What does this mean for the future of our workforce?

From 1980 to 1990, Delaware's population increased 12.1% from 594,338 to 666,168, compared to much slower growth in the 70s of 8.4 percent. In addition to this growth, Delaware's economy expanded significantly in the 80s with an increase of 87,200 jobs.

Delaware Population Trends By County

	1980	1990	Change 1980-1990 Number	Percent
Totals	594,338	666,168	71,830	12.1
New Castle	398,115	441,946	43,831	11.0
Kent	98,219	110,993	12,774	13.0
Sussex	98,004	113,229	15,225	15.5

Source: Bureau of the Census and the Delaware Data Center

Between 1980 and 1990, Delaware's labor force participation rate rose from 64.4% to 69.9%. The labor force participation rate accounts for all non-military people, over the age of 16, who are working or actively seeking work. The 80s saw a large influx of women into the labor force, spurring on Delaware's record economic expansion. During this period, women's participation increased from 52.2% early in the decade to 61.9% at the end.

In the late 1980s rapid job growth, coupled with high labor force participation rates, led to a very tight labor market. Simply put, there were more jobs than qualified people to fill them. The current recession has changed that situation to one where highly trained and educated job applicants are plentiful. The labor situation is expected to once again tighten by th mid-1990s as the number of available new entrants to the labor force is projected to decline.

During the 80s, New Castle County saw the largest net increase in population with a gain of 43,831 people. In 1990, New Castle County comprised about two-thirds of the State's population. Reasons for continued county growth include the success of the Financial Center Development Act, which brought dozens of out-of-state banks to the State. Most of these new financial institutions came to New Castle County and spurred rapid growth not only in finance but also in support areas such as construction, retail trade, and business services. These same industries have fallen on hard times during our current recessionary period.

While New Castle County saw the largest growth in the 80s, Sussex County experienced the fastest growth at 15.5%. This growth is attributed to economic successes primarily in the food processing and tourism industries. Construction also benefited as people had more disposable income to spend on beach homes, boats, and recreational activities.

While Delaware's population grew during the 1980s, it also aged. The median age in 1980 was 30.8 years compared to 32.9 in 1990. One of the fastest growing segments of Delaware's population is the over-65 age group (with an increase of 36.4% over the decade).

Implications of Delaware's aging population include:

- Need for expansion of the health care industry (health care providers, nursing homes, home health care).
- Need to retain and retrain older workers to alleviate future labor shortages.

- Need for increased services for older people such as improved mass transportation systems, meals on wheels, senior centers.
- Need for reasonable retirement living--at all levels of nursing care (condos, retirement villages), home maintenance, personal services.

The baby boom generation (ages 25-44) is another fast growing segment of Delaware's population with growth of 33.5% during the 80s. This age group falls into a category now known as the "sandwich generation." In addition to raising their own children, with the problem of finding competent child care, this group must also cope with parents in need of caregiving. Baby boomers are also very health conscience with an emphasis on preventive medicine techniques (healthy lifestyle and recreational services. This group dominates the Delaware labor force, which, in turn, blocks advancement opportunities into mid-level management positions by younger workers.

Delaware Population by Age Groups, 1980 and 1990

	1980	1990	Change 1980-1990 Number	Percent
Totals	594,338	666,168	71,830	12.1
Under 5 years	41,151	48,824	7,673	18.6
5 to 17	125,444	114,517	-10,927	-8.7
18 to 24	83,373	76,233	-7,140	-8.6
25 to 44	163,304	217,981	54,677	33.5
45 to 54	63,210	68,114	4,904	7.8
55 to 64	58,677	59,764	1,087	1.9
65 and over	59,179	80,735	21,556	36.4

Source: Bureau of the Census and the Delaware Data Center

During the 1980s there was a considerable decline in the number of 18-24 year olds in Delaware. In 1980 there were 83,373 18-24 year-olds, compared to 76,233 in 1990. This age group represents a new era following the baby boom generation. As a result, there was a labor shortage in the mid-to-late 80s in certain entry-level part-time jobs (retailing). While the recession has temporarily alleviated the labor shortage, it is important that anyone entering the labor market have the best possible skills to compete. Those who lack proper training and skills won't be able to find meaningful employment that offers stability and a chance for advancement.

Since 1980, the number of 5- to 17- year-olds has dropped 8.7%. School enrollments declined resulting in school closures. This trend is starting to reverse itself, and the school age population is increasing (especially in the younger age groups). The need for more schools and teachers has begun and should continue through the year 2000. (Note: earlier this summer, the State's Early Retirement Option (ERO) created an immediate need for over 1,000 educators. Most of these openings have already been filled).

Since 1980 the number of children ages 0-5 has grown 18.6%. As a result, there will be an increased need for schools (teachers, bus drivers, etc.); child care (in order to attract and retain women in the labor force); and health care (pediatricians).

As we head for the year 2000, Delaware's political, demographic, and physical makeup will continue to take many turns. We're faced with an aging population, a glut of baby boomers, and fewer young people entering the workforce. Currently, we're faced with layoffs and an extremely difficult employment picture.

In the long run, however, once the economy rebounds and the labor market adjusts, jobs will be available. The Delaware Department of Labor's role is to insure our workforce is adequately trained and prepared for the widespread challenges that lie ahead.

Unemployment Insurance Statistics

	June 1991	May 1991	June 1990	% Change From Prior Month	% Change From Year Ago
Initial Claims-Total *	3,356	6,557	2,959	-49%	13%
Auto Makers	0	3,181	0	-100%	******
Non-Auto	3,356	3,376	2,959	-1%	13%
Weeks Claimed **	25,084	32,091	14,551	-22%	72%
Auto Makers	0	3,415	0	-100%	******
Non-Auto	25,084	28,676	14,551	-13%	72%
First Payments #	1,272	1,409	1,043	-10%	22%
Final Payments ##	386	486	284	-21%	36%
Weeks Compensated @	23,317	31,514	13,547	-26%	72%
Amount Compensated	3,889,433	5,404,275	2,165,525	-28%	80%
Average Weekly Check Amount	167	171	160	-3%	4%

* **Initial Claims** include New Initial Claims and Additional Initial Claims. A New Initial Claim is filed when a person becomes unemployed and files for unemployment insurance for the very first time in a benefit year. Additional Initial Claims are filed when someone has already filed a New Initial Claim due to unemployment, returned to work for at least a week, and then become unemployed again.

** **Weeks Claimed** account for the total number of weeks claimed for unemployment insurance within a given month.

\# **First Payments** are New Initial Claims that receive unemployment compensation checks.

\## **Final Payments** occur when a claimant receives the last check in his or her benefit cycle (not to exceed one year).

@ **Weeks Compensated** account for the number of Weeks Claimed that were paid during the month.

Initial Claims in June dropped to about half of their May level due to a return to work at the state's auto plants. Excluding auto makers, initial claims remained virtually unchanged, dropping only 1%. This presents a mixed signal on the state of the economy. Over the last 10 years, initial claims in Delaware have tended to rise from May to June due to school-related layoffs (school bus drivers, crossing guards, etc.); a decrease of 1% can therefore be seen in a positive light. However, the level of initial claims is the highest for the month since June 1982 and shows few signs for a serious decline anytime soon.

Compared to June 1990, initial claims are up 13% while weeks claimed are up by 72%. As we enter August and September and start comparing these months with the same periods in 1990, the difference in the number of initial claims and weeks claimed won't be as great since both periods fall within the current recession. At this time last year we were just entering the recession, therefore initial claims and weeks claimed hadn't yet reached recessionary levels.

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